



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
HEARTLAND REGION -- MISSOURI FIELD OFFICE
601 Business Loop 70 West, Suite 213E
Columbia, Missouri 65203



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2014

Contact: Robert Garino
(800) 551-1014

USDA CONDUCTING NATIONAL SURVEY OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

[Columbia, MO] – According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, total organic product sales by farms and ranches in the U.S. have continued to show substantial growth over the last few years, increasing by 83 percent since 2007. To learn more about the trends of organic agriculture in the United States, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is now conducting the 2014 Organic Survey.

"The Organic Survey comes in direct response to the continued interest in organics among consumers, producers, businesses, and others," said Bob Garino, State Statistician of the NASS Missouri Office. "This is an opportunity for organic producers to provide more detailed data to help provide the industry with a reliable source of information to use in justifying research projects and fund requests for the continued growth and sustainability of organic farming and ranching in the United States."

NASS will mail the survey in early January to all known organic producers in the United States. The survey will look at many aspects of organic agriculture during the 2014 calendar year – from production and marketing practices, to income and expenses. It will focus not only on operations that are currently engaged in organic production, but also on those making the transition to organic agriculture.

"The results of the survey will help shape future decisions regarding farm policy, funding allocations, availability of goods and services, and other key issues," Garino noted. "In addition, the information can help producers make informed decisions about the future of their own farming operations."

Producers can fill out the survey online via a secure website, www.agcensus.usda.gov, or return their form by mail. Federal law (Title 7, U.S. Code) requires all producers who receive a form to respond and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential.

Recipients are required to respond by mail by February 13, 2015 or online by April 3, 2015. NASS will publish the results in August 2015. For more information about the Organic Survey, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (800) 551-1014.

The table below shows information from the 2012 Census of Agriculture.

Table 54. Organic Agriculture: 2012

Item	2012
VALUE OF SALES OF CERTIFIED OR EXEMPT ORGANICALLY PRODUCED COMMODITIES	
Total organic product sales (see text) farms	190
Average per farm \$1,000	12,039
Average per farm dollars	63,361
By value of sales:	
\$1 to \$4,999 farms	69
..... \$1,000	115
\$5,000 to \$9,999 farms	20
..... \$1,000	152
\$10,000 to \$24,999 farms	28
..... \$1,000	460
\$25,000 to \$49,999 farms	38
..... \$1,000	1,273
\$50,000 or more farms	35
..... \$1,000	10,037
TYPE OF PRODUCTION (SEE TEXT)	
USDA National Organic Program certified organic production farms	160
USDA National Organic Program organic production exempt from certification farms	67
Acres transitioning into USDA National Organic Program organic production farms	65
PRINCIPAL OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS FOR FARMS WITH CERTIFIED OR EXEMPT ORGANIC PRODUCTION	
Sex of operator:	
Male farms	192
Female farms	35
Primary occupation:	
Farming farms	140
Other farms	87

Item	2012
PRINCIPAL OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS FOR FARMS WITH CERTIFIED OR EXEMPT ORGANIC PRODUCTION - Con.	
Place of residence:	
On farm operated	194
Not on farm operated	33
Days worked off farm:	
None	83
Any	144
1 to 49 days	37
50 to 99 days	19
100 to 199 days	11
200 days or more	77
Years on present farm:	
2 years or less	22
3 or 4 years	39
5 to 9 years	36
10 years or more	130
Average years on present farm	15
Age group:	
Under 25 years	6
25 to 34 years	27
35 to 44 years	55
45 to 49 years	16
50 to 54 years	32
55 to 59 years	27
60 to 64 years	37
65 to 69 years	12
70 years and over	15
Average age	49.7

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NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for "NASS Data User Community."

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